

Peer Review

Review of: "Evaluation of Musical Conductors' Exposure to Noise"

Satish Lokhande¹

1. National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur, India

Reviewer Comments

The paper aimed to quantify the noise exposure experienced by music conductors in the rehearsal hall, which is an interesting focus. However, the discussion is limited to a narrow context, preventing broader conclusions. Some sections of the paper, particularly the methodology and results, require significant revision.

Abstract, Page 1

While the authors mentioned recommended noise control measures in the abstract, there are no specific recommendations provided in the manuscript itself.

Introduction, Page 2:

Give the complete form of NIOSH as it appears in the first instance.

Method, Page 2

The authors need to clarify the use of the dosimeter. Given that a musical shift can last up to 8 hours and may include pauses and breaks, it is essential to specify whether the dosimeter was turned "OFF" and "ON" as required. It is questionable whether the authors collected a full 8 hours of data in a single shift. This is evident from Figures 1 and 2, which display data for only 7 hours and 4 hours, respectively.

Page 3:

For Figures 1 and 2, please clarify what the red and green waves indicate.

Discussions:

The authors should clarify the significant variations in noise levels observed over the past three hours. Additionally, the discussion section lacks depth. Occupational noise exposure is regulated by NIOSH

guidelines, which specify a limit of 85 dBA over an 8-hour period. The authors have noted that during certain hours, the observed noise levels exceeded 85 dBA. It is important to highlight that the permissible exposure time is halved for every 3 dB increase above 85 dBA, according to both NIOSH and OSHA guidelines. The authors must contextualize their findings by referencing these recommendations from OSHA and NIOSH.

Furthermore, it is essential to include more references related to the noise exposure limits established by standard-setting organizations. Excessive noise exposure can lead to numerous adverse health effects, including headaches, insomnia, fatigue, high blood pressure, arrhythmias, annoyance, difficulties with performance and communication, diminished morale, poor signal intelligibility, and reduced concentration. The authors are encouraged to cite relevant literature that discusses these issues, referring to the following publication: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-023-28558-x>.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.